

S A F E T Y SUSTAINABILITY THE FUTURE IS NO ACCIDENT

SOUTHWEST ARTS CONFERENCE 2009

The 32nd Annual Southwest Arts Conference
Thursday, August 13 and Friday, August 14, 2009

Carefree Resort and Villas
37220 Mule Train Road; Carefree, Arizona 85377

CALL FOR SESSION PROPOSALS

► The Arizona Commission on the Arts

The Arizona Commission on the Arts is an agency of the State of Arizona whose mission is to create opportunities for all Arizonans to participate in and experience the arts. To that end, we deliver grants and support programs to cultivate sustainable arts communities and promote statewide public access to arts and cultural activities.

► The 2009 Southwest Arts Conference

What began as the *Southwestern Presenters Conference* in 1977 formally became the Southwest Arts Conference (SWAC) in 1989. With each passing year the conference evolved to meet evolving needs, focusing on audience development, the service of arts presenters and community artists, and recently, on public value for the arts. SWAC has taken place in different Arizona cities at various times of year, and has hosted up to 500 members of the Arizona arts community.

This year's conference will take place outside of the Phoenix city core at the beautiful and relaxing Carefree Resort and Villas. We hope this change of venue allows for more of a focused learning experience for participants. More information related to room rates and conference registration will be available in spring.

SWAC 2009 will focus on the theme, "Safety/Sustainability/The Future is No Accident," and will address the economic crisis and its effect on the arts and education sectors, and the fact that within the tumult there are terrific opportunities. Using the old civic slogan as a departure point – "safety is no accident" – the conference will address preparedness and sustainability but move beyond, into discovering opportunity within the current economic realities and constructing a prosperous future.

The 2009 keynote speaker will be world-renowned photographer and environmental activist Chris Jordan (<http://www.chrisjordan.com/>). Mr. Jordan will speak about his journey of awareness from detached corporate lawyer to passionately engaged artist and cultural activist, reflecting on the deeper implications of mass consumption.

► SWAC Audience

200-500 people attend SWAC annually. Arts administrators, elected officials at multiple levels, individual and teaching artists, arts educators, board members and arts advocates are welcome.

Participants come from cities and towns across Arizona, from varied arts backgrounds and levels of experience. Because it is important that all interested persons feel welcome at the conference, we routinely ask presenters to refrain from making assumptions about the politics, values or background of

participants. We also ask presenters to remember that conference participants might be new to the field and might not speak an “arts language” and to do their best to explain jargon and acronyms within presentations.

► **2009 Conference Format**

The conference agenda has not yet been finalized.

SWAC 2009 will begin on Thursday, August 13, 2009 with peer group sessions. There will likely be a networking event Thursday evening. Friday, August 14, 2009 will continue with conference presentations, workshops, experiential sessions and performances. The conference keynote address will take place Friday afternoon. The bulk of conference sessions selected as a result of this call for proposals will be scheduled on Friday, August 14, 2009.

► **What we’re Looking For**

Facilitated interactive discussions, experiential sessions, expert-led presentations and direct learning opportunities. We are seeking proposals with sharing, inclusiveness and opportunity at their core. We also appreciate innovation and the willingness to consider the refinement or abandonment of traditional models.

We are open to broad interpretations of the conference theme, and in fact are open to proposals that disregard the theme altogether, if the proposal is exceptional. But within the theme, we hope to address some or all of the following: safety for individual artists; crisis/disaster preparedness for individuals and organizations; thoughtful, practical and visionary planning; formal and informal sharing of resources; new models for organizational structure; and new realities for public and private funding for the arts.

For experiential sessions, we are looking sessions that provide hands-on artmaking and direct arts experiences for participants. We are open to experiential sessions that relate to the conference theme as well as those that provide participants with a welcome departure from their daily routines.

► **What we’re Not Looking For**

Talking head panels, mind-numbing lectures and sessions wherein presenters attempt to sell products or programs.

► **Who is Eligible to Submit a Proposal?**

The Commission is pleased to accept proposals from individuals, companies or organizations.

► **Will the Commission Provide Speaker Stipends, Audio/Visual Support or Session Supplies?**

The conference registration fee will be waived for all speakers. Small honoraria may be available for those traveling over 70 miles roundtrip within Arizona and for those traveling from out of state. Supply honoraria will be available for some leaders of experiential sessions, should materials be required.

Rooms will be outfitted with microphones if sound amplification is necessary, given the room size and setup. Because of the high cost of equipment rental, the Commission will give priority to proposals that either 1) do not require audio/visual equipment or 2) require audio/visual equipment that the applicant is able to provide. The Commission is able to provide a limited amount of audio/visual support during the conference with equipment owned by the agency, but will be judicious about the rental of additional equipment.

The Commission staff will provide flip charts, white boards, easels, markers, notepads, pens, pencils, paperclips, etc.; and will make copies of session materials if materials are provided by the copy deadline, of which presenters will be made aware.

► How to Apply

Submit a completed application form and session proposal document, not to exceed 1 page, single sided. Include professional resume or curriculum vitae for each session presenter. Session proposal document must possess header or footer with last name/company name/organization name and proposed session title.

5-page application form, session proposal document and resumes or curriculum vitae must be mailed to the Arizona Commission on the Arts, at SWAC 2009 Session Proposal, Arizona Commission on the Arts, 417 West Roosevelt, Phoenix AZ 85003.

Deadline for submission: Monday, February 16, 2009 (postmark deadline). Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

► The Review Process

Proposals will be reviewed by the Commission staff. The following criteria will be used:

- Clarity of proposal;
- Adherence to proposal submission instructions;
- Relevance to the conference theme and/or goals;
- Potential for engaging participants in meaningful learning experiences.

Again, priority will be given to proposals that either 1) do not require audio/visual equipment or 2) require audio/visual equipment that the applicant is able to provide.

Applicants will be notified of the status of their proposal on or after March 02, 2009.